

Message Text

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15 L
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 L-03 PRS-01 SPM-01

OIC-04 DRC-01 /110 W
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R 130855Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1041
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
USUN NEW YORK 102
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3307

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SN, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPRESENTATION IN UN BODIES

REF: A) STATE 172100, B) STATE 175356

1. I RAISED KHMER REPRESENTATION QUESTION WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER RAJARATNAM AUGUST 10 WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO
UPCOMING WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE. SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER
FAMILIAR WITH OUR VIEWS ON SUBJECT, AS RESULT SEVERAL
PREVIOUS REPRESENTATIONS, I REVIEWED OUR POSITION ONLY
BRIEFLY AND ASKED HOW SINGAPORE WOULD VOTE ON ISSUE.

2. RAJARATNAM SAID GOS MINISTER OF HEALTH, CHUA SIAN CHIN,
WOULD ATTEND SUBJECT CONFERENCE. I PRESSED HIM FOR
INDICATION ON HOW THEY WOULD VOTE ON KHMER ISSUE AT
THAT AND OTHER UPCOMING UN MEETINGS TO WHICH HE RESPONDED
THAT GOS HAD ALWAYS BELIEVED IT WAS UP TO CAMBODIANS TO
DECIDE ON THEIR POLITICAL REPRESENTATION AND THAT OUT-
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SIDERS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE. IF MATTER CAME TO VOTE,

GOS WOULD ABSTAIN "AS WE ALWAYS DO". (COMMENT: ACTUALLY GOS RELUCTANTLY WENT ALONG WITH AN ASEAN CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF DEFERRAL OF AGENDA ITEM AT LAST UNGA, BUT HAS FAIRLY CONSISTENTLY HELD TO LINE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN WHAT THEY CONSIDER INTERNAL KHMER AFFAIR.) RAJARATNAM SAID THEY WERE NOW ENGAGED IN ANALYSIS OF PROBABLE VOTE AT UNGA AND ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY SO I GOT IMPRESSION GOS LIKELY VOTE WITH MAJORITY.

3. IN TALKING TO KHMER AMBASSADOR WONGSANITH YESTERDAY, HE INFORMED ME THAT PM LONG BORET HAD PASSED THROUGH SINGAPORE ENROUTE FROM JAKARTA TO BANGKOK ON SATURDAY. HE HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT WITH PM LEE EITHER AUGUST 11-12 OR LATER IN MONTH. THIS REQUEST WAS TURNED DOWN BY RAJARATNAM ON GROUNDS PM LEE WAS TOO BUSY. RAJARATNAM SUGGESTED MATTER BE RAISED AFTER PENDING VISITS OF SUHARTO AND SHAH WHICH WOULD DELAY APPOINTMENT UNTIL AFTER SEPTEMBER 20. WONGSANITH SAID IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT LEE DID NOT WANT TO SEE KONG BORET, BUT THEY HAD NOT GIVEN UP ON POSSIBILITY OF LATER VISIT. HE SAID THEY HAD HAD SIMILAR REBUFF FROM MALAYSIANS ON GROUNDS PM RAZAK PRE-OCCUPIED WITH ELECTIONS.

4. WONGSANITH'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND WOULD STILL BACK GKR BUT THAT MALAYSIA WAFLING AND SINGAPORE LIKELY TO FOLLOW MALAYSIA LEAD. ASEAN SOLIDARITY ON ISSUE WHICH SEEMED KEY TO SUCCESS AT UNGA LAST YEAR, THEREFORE, SEEMS TO BE CRACKING. (COMMENT: MFA OFFICIALS MAY HAVE TOLD OR IMPLIED TO CAMBODIANS THAT GOS INTENDS TO FOLLOW MALAYSIANS. ACTUALLY, GOS IS FAR MORE DISPOSED TO FOLLOW LEAD OF ITS LARGER NEIGHBOR, INDONESIA.)

5. COMMENT: RAJARATNAM'S REMARKS TO ME ARE DISTURBING SINCE THEY CLEARLY REPRESENT A RETREAT FROM MORE FORTHCOMING POSITIONS EXPRESSED BY PERMANENT SECRETARY BOGAARS IN APRIL AND MAY (SEE SINGAPORE 1768 AND 2096). THEY ALSO CONFLICT WITH PRO-GKR POSITION EXPRESSED BY S.R. NATHAN TO AMBASSADOR WONGSANITH (SINGAPORE 2791).

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6. WE WILL APPROACH GOS AGAIN ON THIS ISSUE, WHEN STRATEGY SUGGESTED REF B FULL DEVELOPED. IT SEEMS CLEAR AT THIS STAGE THAT GOS WILL BE GUIDED LARGELY BY POSITION OF ASEAN PARTNERS, PARTICULARLY INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA. GOS PREDISPOSITION SEEMS TO BE TO ABSTAIN, BUT PERHAPS THEIR ASEAN PARTNERS CAN TALK THEM INTO A COMMON ASEAN POSITION OF SUPPORT.
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